

In the claims

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling a merge process of a plurality of nodes into a single-partition merged system comprising:

communicating by a user with a service processor of a predetermined boot node of the plurality of nodes to enter partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system, the partition configuration information specifying at least which of the plurality of nodes is to be a primary node of the single-partition merged system to be constructed and which of the plurality of nodes are to be secondary nodes of the single-partition merged system to be constructed;

storing the partition configuration information by the service processor of the boot node;

transmitting the partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system from the service processor of the boot node to service processors of predetermined secondary nodes of the plurality of nodes; and,

storing the partition configuration information by the service processor of each of the secondary nodes,

wherein the plurality of nodes are merged into the single-partition merged system that is configured based on the partition configuration information, each node having at least a primary processor other than the service processor of the node.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node without using a dedicated console.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises utilizing a web page user interface to communicate with the service processor of the boot node.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein communicating by the user with the service processor of the boot node comprises utilizing a console management application to communicate with the service processor of the boot node.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at power-up of any of the plurality of nodes:
 - conveying the power-up to the service processor of the boot node; and,
 - starting up the single-partition merged system by the service processor of the boot node, including transmitting commands from the service processor of the boot node to the service processors of the secondary nodes to start up.
6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein power-up of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.
7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein power-up of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a power-up command by any of the plurality of nodes.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at power-down of any of the plurality of nodes:
 - conveying the power-down to the boot node;
 - shutting down the single-partition merged system by the boot node, including transmitting commands from the boot node to the secondary nodes to shut down.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein power-down of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.
10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein power-down of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a power-down command by any of the plurality of nodes.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, at a reset of any of the plurality of nodes:
- conveying the reset to the boot node;
 - resetting the single-partition merged system by the boot node, including transmitting commands from the boot node to the secondary nodes to reset.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein reset of any of the plurality of nodes comprises manual actuation of a control on any of the plurality of nodes by the user.
13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein reset of any of the plurality of nodes comprises receipt of a reset command by any of the plurality of nodes.
14. (currently amended) A single-partition merged system on which a single instance of an operating system (OS) is runnable, comprising:
- at least one predetermined secondary node, each secondary node having a service processor to manage startup and shutdown of the secondary node; and,
 - a predetermined boot node having a service processor to manage at least one of reset, startup, and shutdown of the boot node and to supervise at least one of reset, startup, and shutdown of the at least one secondary node by sending a respective reset, startup, or shutdown

command to the at least one secondary node,

wherein a user communicates partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system with the service processor of the boot node.

wherein the service processor of the boot node transmits the partition configuration information to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node.

wherein the partition configuration information specifies at least which of the plurality of nodes is to be a primary node of the single-partition merged system to be constructed and which of the plurality of nodes are to be secondary nodes of the single-partition merged system to be constructed, and

wherein the plurality of nodes are merged into the single-partition merged system that is configured based on the partition configuration information, each node having at least a primary processor other than the service processor of the node.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein a user communicates the partition configuration information [[to]] for the single-partition merged system with the service processor of the boot node via one of a web page user interface and a console management application without using a dedicated console.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the service processor of the boot node stores the partition configuration information and conveys the partition configuration information to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node for storage.

17. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the at least one secondary node comprises a power control, user actuation of the power control resulting in transmission of a corresponding command to the service processor of the boot node to process and to send a power-related command to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node.

18. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein receipt of a power command by any of the at least one secondary node results in transmission of a corresponding command to the service processor of the boot node to process and to send a power-related command to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node.
19. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the at least one secondary node comprises a reset control, user actuation of the reset control resulting in transmission of a corresponding command to the service processor of the boot node to process and to send a reset related command to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node.
20. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein receipt of a reset command by any of the at least one secondary node results in transmission of a corresponding command to the service processor of the boot node to process and to send a reset-related command to the service processor of each of the at least one secondary node.
21. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer-readable recordable data storage medium; and,
means in the medium for transmitting partition configuration information for a single-partition merged system of a plurality of nodes from a service processor of a boot node to a service processor of each of at least one secondary node and for storing the partition configuration information by the service processor of the boot node,
wherein a user communicates the partition configuration information for the single-partition merged system with the service processor of the boot node,
wherein the partition configuration information specifies at least which of the plurality of nodes is to be a primary node of the single-partition merged system to be constructed and which

of the plurality of nodes are to be secondary nodes of the single-partition merged system to be constructed, and

wherein the plurality of nodes are merged into the single-partition merged system that is configured based on the partition configuration information, each node having at least a primary processor other than the service processor of the node.

22. (currently amended) The article of claim 21, wherein the means is further for interacting with [[a]] the user without a dedicated console to set up the partition configuration at the service processor of the boot node.

23. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means is further for starting up the single-partition merged system by the service processor of the boot node, including transmitting a startup command from the service processor of the boot node to the service processor of each secondary node.

24. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means is further for shutting down the single-partition merged system by the service processor of the boot node, including transmitting a shutdown command from the service processor of the boot node to the service processor of each secondary node.

25. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means is further for resetting the single-partition merged system by the service processor of the boot node, including transmitting a reset command from the service processor of the boot node to the service processor of each secondary node.

26. (cancelled)